

**British Columbia Philatelic Society**  
**Annual General Meeting – March 14, 2007**

**President's Report**

This evening I find myself at the end of my second year as president of the BC Philatelic Society. In this past year, we have seen the Society evolve in small ways.

- We completed our first year of meetings in this venue, and seem to have found a home for at least the next five months; we can only hope that the West Burnaby United Church continues to consider us to be worthwhile tenants and renews our rental contract in September. We have met the challenge of having to pay rent for our meeting venue. Increased income has resulted from cash donations by members of our club, from the donation of lots for both our regular monthly auctions and irregularly scheduled donation auctions, and from regular fund-raising activities at our weekly meetings.

- VANPEX 2006, last September, met most of our expectations and even turned a profit. However, attendance was less than we hoped for, and we realized to a greater extent than ever that we are face the same challenges that other clubs in Canada are facing when it comes to hosting large philatelic exhibits. The Executive Plaza Hotel in Coquitlam, while it was a satisfactory venue, has made us unwelcome by raising its fees considerably for the 2007 calendar year; we were thus faced with the challenge of finding yet another VANPEX venue. We are now well into the process of planning for VANPEX 2007, to be held June 8-10 at a new venue, the Richmond Curling Club in Richmond, BC.

- We continued to offer members a variety of activities at our weekly meetings, in addition to the previously mentioned auctions. The circuit books from the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada were made available on two evenings a month. The Stamp Grab/Treasure Hunt bins have long since paid for themselves and are now making a profit for the Society. Our monthly speaker nights have introduced us to new areas of philatelic knowledge, presented by collectors who are experts in their collecting areas or, in some cases, experts in the uses of new technology such as Internet-based live auctions, album-page creation, and digital slide/video presentations. Especially gratifying was the willingness of club members to come forward as speakers. Our least popular meetings in terms of attendance seem to have been our "Show & Tell" meetings, when we bring items representative of letters of the alphabet, numerals, or various topical themes. But these same meetings always bring out a core of appreciative members who never leave without several new tidbits of philatelic knowledge. Our most popular meetings in terms of attendance continue to be our auctions, followed by Swap 'n' Shop nights, which are my personal favorites because I have so little planning to do!

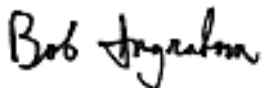
- Our Society newsletter has taken an evolutionary step and is now available not only as a hard-copy version but also as a virtual, full-color, on-line version which is distributed to about 60 members by e-mail and can be downloaded from our web site. This saved the Society approximately \$100 in postage and photocopying of two newsletters over the last year, not to mention a savings in time and labour. If all members who have e-mail would agree to receive the on-line newsletter, we would realize an annual savings of about \$200.

*Continued on reverse...*

- We succeeded in renting additional storage space from the West Burnaby United Church in the form of another wooden cabinet. This has the potential of making our library more accessible than it has been in the recent past, assuming we can keep it organized.
- During the past year, our Society's membership has remained basically static, assuming that the addition of a few new members balances the few former members who have not renewed their memberships for 2007. More-timely reminders will be necessary for 2008, since almost a third of our members are still in arrears, despite reminders.

In closing, I wish to note that our Society remained largely invisible to the population of Greater Vancouver over the last year. We should have been able to attract far more collectors than we did, especially from among Vancouver's many ethnic communities. One of our greatest needs is for a volunteer to undertake the formidable task of overseeing the promotion of our Society and its activities to the community at large. Unless we make ourselves more visible in a variety of media, especially on the Internet and to other collectors and collectors' groups, we will probably languish in terms of membership.

I wish to thank the members of the current executive committee for their support over the last year, and cannot forget to praise the many other members who contributed time and effort to make it a pleasure to be a member of the BC Philatelic Society. It would be hazardous to attempt to name each member who has contributed to the Society in ways large and small, and who has provided me with advice and encouragement along the way. The list would be long, and I would probably forget one or more members. That would cause me embarrassment if I remembered them at a later date, and would disappoint and even irritate the forgotten member or members. So I will play it safe, thank all of you for your support in the past and, and hope that the Society can count on your support in the future.



Bob Ingraham  
President